[Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar.]

Ways and Means.

36. The opening Cash Balance of the current year according to the final accounts of 1117 was Rs 94·21 lakhs. Taking into account the estimated revenue, capital and debt transactions of the year, the current year is expected to close with a cash balance of Rs 108·20 lakhs and the next year with Rs 116·42 lakhs. A minimum cash balance of Rs 60 lakhs will be sufficient to carry on the normal transactions of Government. But on account of the heavy amounts required to finance the purchase of food grains for which a standing advance of about Rs 2 crores is now required, the cash balance has to be kept at a higher figure. We have now a cash balance of more than a crore and Rs 56 lakhs in short-term deposits with Banks, besides gilt-edged securities to the value of 1½ crores of the surplus and reserve investments. These resources will serve for all emergencies and our cash position is therefore extremely satisfactory and there will be no need to raise any loan in the open market during the next year.

General Financial Position.

37. The survey I have made of the finances of the State would indicate that our present financial position is one of exceptional strength. This exceptional strength has been attained during the last nearly seven years of your stewardship of the State and reflects in the fullest measure the comprehensive financial policy and courageous vision and statesmanship of the Head of the Administration under whose vigilant guidance we carry on our respective duties. The revenue in 1113, your first budget year, was Rs 249 lakhs and the expenditure Rs 251 lakhs. In the next year the revenue was Rs 254 lakhs and the expenditure Rs 256 lakhs. In the two later years the revenue stood, respectively at Rs 267 lakhs and Rs 277 lakhs and the expenditure at Rs 268 lakhs and Rs 270 lakhs. In the year 1117 the revenue reached Rs 314 lakhs, overstepping the mark of 3 crores and the expenditure was Rs 276 lakhs. It will be seen that there is a progressive growth of revenue from year to year and it is now well near the limit of Rs 4 crores. From 1116, we have successive years of surpluses and these surpluses are very considerable.

Conclusion.

38. I have endeavoured to present to the House an accurate picture of the financial position of the State in as concise a manner as possible. The difficult task of budgeting under the present circumstances, when conditions are changing from day to day, has been rendered easy of accomplishment by your kind guidance with your versatile knowledge of all affairs and I sincerely express my indebtedness to you, Sir, for your able directions.

Let me conclude with a fervent hope and prayer that this State with its stable resources and reserves and under the gracious sway of its illustrious Sovereign whose sole pre-occupation is the welfare of his subjects may have successive years of plenty and prosperity.

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